



*Rennie Bros. Catalogue*  
**OF NEW LAND - HIGH GRADE**  
**STRAWBERRY PLANTS**



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*Price List Spring 1955*

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**RENNIE BROS. PLANT FARM**

ANDOVER, MASSACHUSETTS

TELEPHONE 833

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## *Rennie Bros. 1955 Price List*

### OF STRAWBERRY PLANTS

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In presenting you with our Strawberry Plant Catalogue for 1955, we thank all our old and new customers for the orders given us in the past, and hope to have the pleasure of serving you in the future.

The strawberry plant situation for 1955. We have a large supply of all varieties listed in this catalogue. The weather was just right to grow a nice crop of plants. Plants were well sprayed and all are free from insects and disease. We offer for sale 13 of the leading varieties. Order early, and when you are ready to plant, just say when and where, and we will see that your plants are there. No potted plants for sale—fall 1955.

Success in the plant business depends entirely upon the success of customers and they can only succeed with strong, healthy plants of the best up-to-date varieties, well grown, well dug, and well packed. Our plants are all graded after being trimmed and all small and old plants or mother plants are discarded. We ship only one grade of plants—No. 1 grade. Our strawberry beds have been inspected by a strawberry expert and found true to name and free from disease.

Our shipping season begins April 1st and continues until around June 1st. A great many people ask us if we put our plants in cold storage after they are dug. No, we do just the opposite. The plants are growing in the fields when your order arrives. Plants are taken right from the field to the packing house, trimmed and tied in bunches of 26, labeled, packed, and taken every day to the Post Office or Express Office in Andover, Mass. Plants handled this way should reach you in good condition.

Telephone Andover 833, Rennie Bros., Argilla Road, Andover, Mass.

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## — 1955 SUGGESTIONS —

### How To Grow Strawberries

Selecting and preparing the land is important in growing strawberries. Soil should be given the same thorough preparation for strawberries as any other crops. The strawberries will do well on nearly all kinds of soil if well drained. The largest crops are grown on land where there is plenty of humus plowed under so that the plants can get plenty of moisture at all times. The ideal strawberry land should be porous and well drained. A slight slope is desired to secure proper drainage—enough to carry off the melting snows so that ice will not cover the fields.

How much manure and fertilizer to be used depends on the condition of the soil. If plenty of barnyard manure has been applied to the crops preceding the strawberries, your land should be in good condition for strawberries.

We always plow plenty of green crops under before setting the plants—at least two crops. Cow-peas, clover, vetch and rye are very good. Sod land should be avoided as too many grubs are likely to be there.

Select a piece of land that has had a hoed crop for two years. If your land will wash away during the winter months, be sure



and plant a cover crop. Land that is fairly level should be plowed late in the fall. We always plow again in the spring 10" deep and harrowed until it is quite loose. The finer the condition of the soil at planting time, the better for the crop and the easier to take care of it.

Plant strawberries on new land. On land that hasn't been set to strawberries for two or more years and that has had at least two good cover crops plowed under, and you will be assured of a good crop. Strawberry plants grown on new land are always free from disease.

### **What To Do With Rennie's New Land Plants**

Set plants upon arrival if possible. If for any reason you are unable to plant as soon as plants arrive, the plants should be taken to some cool place, then taken from the crate; dampen the moss a little, replace back in crate, very lightly. Plants taken care of in this way should be in good condition for four or five days. If you are still unable to plant in four or five days, they should be heeled in a V shaped trench. Make your trench 6" deep with a little slope so that plants will stand up. Untie the bunches, spread them in layers in the trench firmly with the earth up against the roots and keep the crowns just level with the surface. Keep the plants shaded for a few days and water to give them a good start. Plants will keep this way for a long time. Always keep the labels with the plants so as not to get them mixed.

### **Time To Plant**

The best time to plant is as soon as the ground can be plowed and harrowed. The earlier the better. April 1 to June 1 for spring setting. All things being equal, strawberry plants do better when set early where the land is moist and before the plants have had a chance to grow much.

### **Setting Plants**

After the ground is in perfect condition, mark the rows out with any kind of a light marker, being sure to get the rows straight and the same distance apart. Our plants are all trimmed ready to set which will save you a lot of time and a much better job can be done in planting. Any tool that will make a hole deep enough to get the roots down straight, (not slanting as often is done, near the surface where they will dry out). We always make a hole about 5" deep, 4" wide with a V shaped instrument.

Lay the roots of the plants in, fan shaped and press the ground firmly against them; just firm enough to prevent the air reaching the roots and drying them. Get the moist deeper earth to the roots and not the dry top soil. Watering is only necessary in very dry seasons.

Remember, there is a correct way to plant. It is to keep the crown level with the ground. (As shown in the accompanying illustration). If planted too deep the plant is likely to smother. If planted too high the exposed roots will dry.



Always keep the crown uncovered. If in planting or cultivating it becomes covered, uncover it. This is the part in which the fruit is developed.



Strawberry plants set at various depths; left-hand plant set too deep; middle one too shallow; right hand just right.

### Distance Apart

Three main systems of training strawberry plants. The Matted row, the Well-spaced row and the Hills. The Matted row is the easiest and is the most used. Plants are set in rows 4 feet apart with plants set 18 inches to 2 feet in the row, runners are allowed to set at will 'til they make a row 2 feet wide, all runners cut off after that. Some growers cut all runners off after the rows get 1 foot wide. The well-spaced row should be set in rows 4 feet apart and 18 inches in the row. Let each plant make about 6 or 8 new plants if they are put at the sides and between the parent plants that will be just right. All runners should be cut off after they make the required amount.

When planted in hills, plants are set 3 rows, 20 inches apart and the same distance in the row, then a space of 3 feet left for the cultivator and 3 rows as before—2 rows are often set instead of 3. Cut or pull off all runners as they appear.

### How Many Plants To Set An Acre

Multiply the distance between the row by the distance in the row and divide by the number of sq. ft. in an acre which is 43560. If plants are set 4 feet by 18 inches divide 43560 by 6 which will give you 7260.

### Cultivating

Cultivating should start as soon as the plants are set, also hoed and if any of the plants have been set too deep or covered for any reason, uncover them as they never amount to much if the crown is covered.

We always use a 14 tooth cultivator. The narrow teeth allow you to get closer to the row without covering the plants. The end teeth on each side of the cultivator should be raised up a little so it will not dig down too deep, so as not to injure the roots



and throw the earth on to the crown. Up until the plants begin to run, we always cultivate twice in the same row which does away with a lot of extra hoeing.

Keep up the cultivating and hoeing; do not let the winter get in with a lot of weeds in the strawberry bed. We always cultivate once a week up until the late fall or the growth stops in the fall.

Never cultivate the following fruit year as the roots are too close to the surface.

### Removing Blossoms and Mulching

All blossoms should be removed from the June varieties, as they appear the first year they are set out; if the blossoms are allowed to stay on until the berries begin to form, they never do so well. Mulching is applied for four reasons: first, it protects the plants from freezing and thawing in the winter; second, it keeps the fruit clean during a rainy spell; third, also helps to smother weeds; and fourth, it preserves moisture during the fruiting season.

The best time to cover the strawberry bed is just as soon as the ground is frozen hard enough to hold up team or truck. We generally start around the last of November or the first part of December and when the plants begin to grow in the spring, rake off most of the hay, and place between the rows leaving a little on top of the rows so that the plants can grow up through.

Any material will do for mulching provided it is free from weeds and does not pack down too hard to smother the plants. We always use rye straw—one inch deep is plenty after it settles down—it takes about three tons to an acre.

### ✓ EMPIRE

The Empire and Erie have just been named by the New York Agricultural Experiment Station.

Empire is a cross between the Dresden and Sparkle. The plants are vigorous and make plenty of runners, a heavy yielder of large berries that hold their size throughout the picking season. The color is very attractive, light red and a better shipper than the Howard 17 and better quality. Comes into bearing 4 to 6 days later than the Howard 17. Well recommended for a trial.

#### BY PARCEL POST PREPAID

25	50	100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800	900	1000
for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for
1.25	2.20	3.35	6.25	8.50	10.50	12.50	14.50	16.50	18.50	20.50	22.00

By Express or Called For at Farm — Not Prepaid

100 for \$3.00

500 for \$11.50

1000 for \$20.00

### ✓ ERIE

Erie is a cross between the Sparkle and Howard 17. The quality of the Erie is about the same as Howard 17. Ripens



about one week later than the Howard 17 or about the same time as the Sparkle. Color is medium red bright, good shipper. The berries are large and hold their size throughout the season. The principal merit of the Erie is the heavy yield of attractive berries which ripen late. Well recommended for a trial.

#### BY PARCEL POST PREPAID

25 for	50 for	100 for	200 for	300 for	400 for	500 for	600 for	700 for	800 for	900 for	1000 for
1.25	2.20	3.35	6.25	8.50	10.50	12.50	14.50	16.50	18.50	20.50	22.00

By Express or Called For at Farm — Not Prepaid

100 for \$3.00

500 for \$11.50

1000 for \$20.00

### ✓ CATSKILL MID-SEASON TO LATE

The Catskill was originated by the New York Agricultural College, a cross between the Marshall and Howard 17. A very vigorous grower and healthy plant should be thinned out a little for best results. Ripens a few days later than the Howard 17, about the same time as Fairfax. Berries are very large and hold their size to the very last picking. Bright red with a bright green cap that stands up well. In a well spaced row it is the heaviest producing mid-season berry we have. Bringing more money than any other variety.

We never hesitate to recommend Catskill as our best mid-season variety for home, garden, or market.

#### BY PARCEL POST PREPAID

25 for	50 for	100 for	200 for	300 for	400 for	500 for	600 for	700 for	800 for	900 for	1000 for
1.25	2.20	3.35	6.25	8.50	10.50	12.50	14.50	16.50	18.50	20.50	22.00

By Express or Called For at Farm — Not Prepaid

100 for \$3.00

500 for \$11.50

1000 for \$20.00

### HOWARD 17 ✓ (PREMIER) EARLY

An old favorite and one of the most profitable strawberries grown today. The Howard 17 has the longest fruiting season of any and is considered one of the healthiest plants grown being free from rust or leaf spots. It bears large crops on any type of soil if well drained. The berries begin to ripen early, they have a uniform shape, medium bright red, with a large green cap, makes runners freely and should be thinned out for best results. We consider the Howard 17 the best all around berry at the present time. One of the heaviest yielders, it is still our best selling variety. We have a new strain of Howard 17.

#### BY PARCEL POST PREPAID

25 for	50 for	100 for	200 for	300 for	400 for	500 for	600 for	700 for	800 for	900 for	1000 for
1.25	2.20	3.35	6.25	8.50	10.50	12.50	14.50	16.50	18.50	20.50	22.00

By Express or Called For at Farm — Not Prepaid

100 for \$3.00

500 for \$11.50

1000 for \$20.00



## ✓ TEMPLE MID-SEASON

A cross between Fairfax and Aberdeen. Temple is very productive. Berries are large light red with dark green caps. Good shippers, very attractive when packed. Vigorous grower and heavy yielder. Requires plenty of moisture for best results. All growers should plant Temple. Resistant to Red Stele Disease.

### BY PARCEL POST PREPAID

25	50	100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800	900	1000
for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for
1.25	2.20	3.35	6.25	8.50	10.50	12.50	14.50	16.50	18.50	20.50	22.00

By Express or Called For at Farm — Not Prepaid

100 for \$3.00

500 for \$11.50

1000 for \$20.00

## ✓ FAIRFAX EARLY

Fairfax like the Dorsett was originated by the United States Department of Agriculture, a cross between the Royal Sovereign and Howard 17. Fairfax is like the Dorsett in some respects with dark green foliage and such a heavy plant maker that it should be thinned out a little for best results. Berries of Fairfax are larger than the Dorsett or Howard 17 and stand shipping better. It is the most solid berry of them all, turns a little dark after being picked which is not in its favor, but being such a fine flavored berry and good shipper it is largely planted. With us it's the best home berry we have. Ripens a few days later than Howard 17. Some growers find Fairfax to yield as much as the Howard 17. From our experience the Fairfax is a good yielder of the finest flavor of any berry ever grown. If you have never planted Fairfax, try some this year, you will not be disappointed.

### BY PARCEL POST PREPAID

25	50	100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800	900	1000
for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for
1.25	2.20	3.35	6.25	8.50	10.50	12.50	14.50	16.50	18.50	20.50	22.00

By Express or Called For at Farm — Not Prepaid

100 for \$3.00

500 for \$11.50

1000 for \$20.00

## ✓ SPARKLE

### MID-SEASON TO LATE

Sparkle is a new variety. Well recommended in all strawberry catalogues. We have for many years grown beautiful plants of this variety and find it a heavy yielder of smooth red berries, a big green cap, fine flavor and a good shipper. Berries are above average size. Resistant to Red Stele Disease.

### BY PARCEL POST PREPAID

25	50	100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800	900	1000
for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for
1.25	2.20	3.35	6.25	8.50	10.50	12.50	14.50	16.50	18.50	20.50	22.00

By Express or Called For at Farm — Not Prepaid

100 for \$3.00

500 for \$11.50

1000 for \$20.00



## ROBINSON (SCARLET BEAUTY)

### MID-SEASON TO LATE

This is a variety that everyone should try. A cross between the Howard 17 and Washington varieties. It is a heavy yielder of large berries, light in color and very easy to pick. With us it makes too many new plants so should be thinned out for best results. Robinson is a very healthy plant and from all reports is a favorite with our customers. We have a large supply of Robinson this year.

#### BY PARCEL POST PREPAID

25	50	100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800	900	1000
for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for
1.45	2.30	3.50	6.50	9.00	11.00	13.00	15.00	17.00	19.00	21.00	23.00

By Express or Called For at Farm — Not Prepaid

100 for \$3.00

500 for \$12.00

1000 for \$21.00

## GREAT BAY

### MID-SEASON TO LATE

The latest introduction of strawberry plants. A cross between the Catskill and Simcoe. Originated at the University of Durham, New Hampshire. We have fruited this variety and find it is all the originator claims it to be. It is described as a large bright red berry of the Catskill type. Very healthy plants standing well above the blossoms as frost protection. A heavy yielder if properly fertilized and has a good supply of water, it will produce more berries per plant than any plant on the market today. It bears the berries on clusters and they ripen uniformly. Berries are easy to pick and good shippers. We have a fine healthy stock of Geat Bay. We believe the Great Bay, if grown right under the right condition, will prove to be the greatest strawberry of all times. With us, grown here, it is the largest of all berries and the heaviest yielder on the farm. Last year on a test plot, produced at the rate of 4 quarts per plant set out. There is a big demand for this new variety. We have a good supply of Great Bay this year.

#### BY PARCEL POST PREPAID

25	50	100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800	900	1000
for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for
2.00	3.25	5.50	9.00	11.50	14.00	16.50	19.00	21.50	24.00	26.50	29.00

By Express or Called for at Farm — Not Prepaid

100 for \$5.25

500 for \$15.50

1000 for \$27.00

## GEM EVERBEARING

Gem is the best everbearing berry with us. Plants set in April and May will fruit from Aug. 1 until the ground freezes. It is the most popular and profitable fall strawberry on the



market. Plants are very healthy. Berries are almost round in shape, heavy yielder and ship well. Our customers report they make more money with the Gem Everbearing than any other fall bearing variety. Those who have not been successful with other everbearers should try Gem.

**BY PARCEL POST PREPAID**

25	50	100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800	900	1000
for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for
1.50	3.00	5.00	9.00	12.00	14.00	16.00	18.00	20.00	22.00	24.00	25.00

By Express or Called For at Farm — Not Prepaid

100 for \$4.90

500 for \$15.50

1000 for \$24.00

**NEW SUPERFECTION EVERBEARING**

New Superfection is a heavy yielder, a large red berry and good flavor also makes a good fruiting row. It is well recommended. Why not give it a trial.

**BY PARCEL POST PREPAID**

25	50	100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800	900	1000
for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for
1.50	3.00	5.00	9.00	12.00	14.00	16.00	18.00	20.00	22.00	24.00	25.00

By Express or Called for at Farm — Not Prepaid

100 for \$4.90

500 for \$15.50

1000 for \$24.00

**NEW STREAMLINER EVERBEARING**

This is the newest. Everbearing is very highly recommended by all who have tried it. With us the first picking was on Aug. 1st, the last picking on Nov. 15. A good variety to try.

**BY PARCEL POST PREPAID**

25	50	100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800	900	1000
for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for	for
1.50	3.00	5.00	9.00	12.00	14.00	16.00	18.00	20.00	22.00	24.00	25.00

By Express or Called For at Farm — Not Prepaid

100 for \$4.90

500 for \$15.50

1000 for \$24.00

**BLAZE**  
**Very Late**

We have never fruited this variety, it is described as a very large Red Berry. Flavor as good as Fairfax. The Blaze is a very late fruiting plant. They fruit when all other varieties are over. With such a late variety your berry sales should be increased. Plants are large and healthy, with a root system as big as Great Bay. Order early as plants are not plentiful.

**BY PARCEL POST PREPAID**

25 for \$2.00

50 for \$3.50

100 for 6.00



**CERTIFICATE OF NURSERY INSPECTION**

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Division of Plant Pest Control and Fairs

Official Certificate No. 229

Boston, August 11, 1954

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

**This is to certify** that I have this tenth day of August completed the inspection of the strawberry stock of Rennie Bros. Strawberry Farm grown at Andover, State of Massachusetts, and find it to be apparently free from all injurious insects and diseases which might be transferred on nursery stock from the nursery to the orchard or garden.

This certificate good until July 1, 1955.

Inspected by D. Ubertalli

(Signed Q. S. LOWRY  
Asst. Director

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**Number of Plants to set an acre**

Plants in Row	Space between Rows	No. of Plants
18 inches	48 inches	7260
24 inches	48 inches	5445
18 inches	42 inches	8300
24 inches	36 inches	7250
18 inches	36 inches	9680
24 inches	42 inches	6223

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**ORDER EARLY**

Near the end of the season we often find we are short of some varieties. When sending your order please state if we can substitute or not. When making out your order be sure and add each variety separately. **No. C.O.D.**

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**This little catalogue is our only means of advertising so if you want Rennie Bros. High Grade Strawberry Plants be sure and order early from this catalogue.**

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**It pays to plant Rennie Bros. New Land Strawberry Plants**



## EVERBEARING

Everbearing varieties should be planted in the spring as soon as the ground can be worked on land that is very rich that has had some good green crop turned under, owing to the everbearing varieties having a longer fruiting period than the June varieties. Land should be made much richer before setting to plants. If no manure is available, we plow under green crops for humus and broadcast from 1200 to 1500 lbs. of 5-8-7 fertilizer per acre before setting to plants well harrowed in. During the season that is the first year they are set out, we apply about 8 to 10 quarts of fertilizer to a 200 foot row. This amount should be put on each month, say May, June, July and again in September. This keeps them in good growing condition. After each application, plants should be hoed and rows cultivated to cover the fertilizer.

Keep the fertilizer 2 or 3 inches away from the plants as it is sure to burn if applied when wet. If plants are dry, it is all right to broadcast on top of the plants but be sure to brush off.

The blossoms should be removed every two weeks up until July 1st or until the plants get a good size. In about three weeks after that, the berries should begin to ripen and keep fruiting until the ground freezes. Never pull off blossoms after the first year they are set. Let them fruit when they will.

Everbearing kinds should be planted in the hills or a well spaced row. Plants grown this way produce large strong healthy plants with big crowns each often yielding one quart of berries or more the first year they are set out. Sometimes it is best to plow the bed under after the second year. Keep the bed free from weeds, and it can be made to produce paying crops for three or more years.

One should be careful in using hen manure to raise a strawberry crop, as too much hen manure causes too many vines, at the expense of the crop. It should be well mixed with a good balanced fertilizer. Hen manure should never be used alone on a strawberry bed.

All our plants are perfect flowering varieties, and will bear a full crop if planted alone.

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**We hope to have the pleasure of supplying you with plants  
this year if only a trial order**

Understand we pay the postage in the first, second and third zone from Andover, Mass. We never ship plants C.O.D to anyone, nor do we book orders and reserve plants unless one-fourth of purchase price is paid when order is sent.



## HOW TO REMIT

Orders should be sent as soon as possible after receiving this catalogue.

Claims must be made on receipt of plants so that mistakes, should any have been made, may be promptly corrected. All our plants are growing in the fields when your order is received. We take the greatest care in digging, trimming and packing your plants so that they will reach you in the best condition possible.

We always take the greatest care to have our plants true to name but should any prove otherwise we will not be liable for any amount greater than paid for the plants.

There are so many causes for failure over which we have no control, that we can assume no responsibility after plants are delivered in good order to Express or Post Office in Andover, Mass.

Remit by Post Office money orders, Express money orders, Registered letter, or Personal check. If it is not convenient to send full amount with order, send one-fourth of the amount and your order will be booked, then the rest before your order is shipped. Please do not send money in a letter unless it is registered. Orders acknowledged the same day received unless we ship the following day.

In sending your order to Rennie Bros. remember you get just what your order calls for; if we are sold out of any variety ordered, we will notify you by return mail and will wait until we hear from you before we substitute.

Address all letters to Rennie Bros. Plant Farm, Argilla Road, Andover, Mass.

**Telephone Service at All Times — 833**

**Rennie Bros. Plant Farm**

**Andover, Massachusetts**

**THESE PEOPLE DID NOT**



**These People Bought Their Plants From Rennie Bros.**

Now turn this upside down